# MARY HARTMAN MAKTRAH YRAK

EPISODE #177

by

Tom Eyen

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY						
LORETTA						MARY KAY PLACE
MARTHA						DODY GOODMAN
ANNIE WYLIE (TIPP	YTOR	ES)				GLORIA DeHAVEN
JODY TROXEL						
DETECTIVE JOHNSON						
WANDA RITTENHOUSE						
BIG HONEY'S VOICE						IRIS KORN

# SETS

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# ACT ONE

# TIPPYTOES TRAILER, MORNING (NEW DAY)

TIPPY (ANNIE) IS BAKING HONEY BREAD IN SMALL KITCHEN. SHE SINGS AS SHE BEATS BREAD INTO BREAD PAN.

#### ANNIE

"A LITTLE ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC

AND IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING IT'S TERRIFIC.

I'VE GOT THE SUN TO TAN ME, PALMS TO FAN ME.

AND ---- AN OCCASIONAL MAN".

(SHE CLOSES OVEN AS SXF: DOOR KNOCKS) Coming!

(FIXES HAIR QUICKLY AND OPENS DOOR) Martha!

(MARTHA COMES IN A STATE OF SHOCK) What is

it? Is something wrong?

#### MARTHA

Oh no, Annie, honey - nothing's wrong. I mean, can't a neighbor just pay a nice friendly visit without everyone thinking something's wrong.

#### ANNIE

Well, I suppose. It's just that it's so early.

MARTHA

Is it? Since George left or is gone, I always get up before the alarm so I won't be reminded he isn't going in to work at the plant.

But it's six a.m. and ya look like you've been up for hours.

#### MARTHA

(BEAT) Then I guess something's wrong. Oh now I remember! I couldn't sleep all night and you know why? Because we have AC-DC trouble right here in this driveway! I hope it hasn't caused you any trouble.

#### ANNIE

(STUNNED) AC-DC trouble?

#### MARTHA

Yes - Mary came over late last night and warned me she had found out we had AC-DC trouble in this driveway; And, I couldn't sleep a wink! --- I worry over any electrical problems. I once put my finger in a socket when I was eight and I can't tell you -

# ANNIE

Martha, Mary wasn't referring to electrical problems.

# MARTHA

She wasn't!? I was so afraid there might be an explosion.

# ANNIE

It all depends on what kind of explosion you mean.

#### MARTHA

The kind you get when you have a short in your wires -- or touch a plug with a screw driver --

Yes, that can be dangerous too, if you don't know what you're doing, -- but you see, I was just trying to explain to Mary, to broaden her experience --

BIG HONEY'S HOT VOICE

Breaker one ten. Breaker one ten. Come in.

ANNIE

Excuse me, I forgot to put a squelch on my C.B. (SHE GOES TO C.B.)

#### MARTHA

I get <u>so</u> confused with all these initials!

A.C., D.C., C.B. and of course there's H.V.

my beau. It's very hard to keep everything

straight!

# BIG HONEY'S VOICE

This is BIG HONEY in a JAM! Over and under — and I mean <u>Under</u> the sheets. Big Honey is Hot. Big Honey is ready. Big Honey is yours for the words that Bill Cullen made famous! Her twenty is ——

#### ANNIE

(CLICKS OFF) She's been calling for help all day.

#### MARTHA

Is she in trouble too? Is her boiler overheated or something. I just can't understand C.B. Lingo!

All I know is her name is BIG Honey and she comes on to every male voice within range.

#### MARTHA

Well there are some women who just can't communicate with other women -- and then there are some who communicate too well.

(ANNIE STARES AT MARTHA FOR A POSSIBLE DOUBLE MEANING, OF COURSE MARTHA HAS NONE AND IS SOON INTO SOMETHING ELSE) Hummm that smells so good what is it?

#### ANNIE

Honey cake with almonds! I'm making it for Heather.

#### MARTHA

What's the recipe.

#### ANNIE

It's just a pound cake made with honey instead of sugar. Too much sugar can kill!

#### MARTHA

So can honey. It's the same thing, only one is sticky -- they both wreck your little islets of hungerhans. I read that in some material from weight-watchers.

#### BIG HONEY'S VOICE

Breaker one ten. This is Big Honey in a delicious jam that needs licked off!

#### MARTHA

Oh, that woman should stop that! She's making me so hungry!

#### ANNIE

She's extending a sexy-come-on-down to a trucker.

# MARTHA

Well, isn't that fascinating! I wonder what she looks like? Probably around 35 with big breasts and gloves! She sounds like she wears white gloves -- a little soiled.

#### ANNIE

Do you want me to ask her?

#### MARTHA

Yes. Ask her where she lives. Maybe she's a neighbor.

# ANNIE

(ON C.B.) Breaker to one ten, What's your twenty.

## MARTHA

Ask her address. Not her age, that's so rude!

#### ANNIE

That's the C.B. code for location.

## MARTHA

Oh dear. After all these years I was just getting the knack of how to talk with people -- and now they go and change the whole dictionary!

# BIG HONEY'S VOICE

Breaker one ten -- on! Who am I jaw jacking with --- Go-Go Girls?

MARTHA

She thinks we're Go-Go girls!

ANNTE

That's the code word for Pigs!

MARTHA

Pigs! Now I may not be all that tidy. You give me that microphone! (GRABS IT) Now listen here Smart Honey or whatever your name is -

ANNIE

Handle.

MARTHA

We are not GO-GO-Pigs! I am Martha Shumway, a decent citizen of my community and I am --

ANNIE

(CUTTING IN) No! Don't give your real name! That's the purpose of a C.B. handle. Freedom! Let the public know the name you feel you are!

MARTHA

Oh, you mean use a name I feel best describes myself!

ANNIE

That's the idea. I'm Tippytoes because I always wanted to be a Ballerina which I could have been if I studied but I didn't and that's a whole nother story.

# MARTHA ( STILL THINKING)

A name that describes me? I got it!

Breaker one-ten. Breaker one-ten. Come
in Big Honey. This is Little Funny Bunny.

BIG HONEY'S VOICE

-- and this is the Big Honey washing her pot and saying four ten, ten-four.

#### MARTHA

(GETING RIGHT IN) and this is Little Funny Bunny saying four ten, ten four right back to you. (TO ANNIE) Am I saying anything dirty?

#### ANNIE

Big Honey just signed off. Four-Ten, Tenfour means. Good-bye.

#### MARTHA

Oh why? and -- we were getting along so well.

#### ANNIE

Well, it could have something to do with your handle.

#### MARTHA

Do you like it? I just made it up.
'Little Funny Bunny'. It's in tribute to
Walt Disney.

#### ANNIE

It's a lovely handle -- it's just what it means in C.B. lingo. --- (MARTHA LOOKS AT ANNIE) "Police in disguise".

# MARTHA

Oh dear! A.C.-D.C.-C.B. Funny Bunny.

Nothing is what it seems anymore. (BEAT)

(INTENSE LOOK TO ANNIE) I wonder what

Big Honey has against the police?!

A BIG

FADE OUT

# ACT TWO

SCENE ONE: HAGGER'S LIVING ROOM, (AFTERNOON)

JODY AND LORETTA PACKING THE XMAS TREES FOR CONDOS FOR CHRIST (FROM LAST YEAR).

#### LORETTA

It's real sweet-like of you to help me pack all these Xmas Trees I made for the Condos for Christ --- to donate to the Salvation Army. Some needy family will benefit from their sales -- which the Salvation Army says they will sell right in front of Fernwood's one and only J.C. Penny.

JODY

(PACKING) Loretta, we got to do something about Charlie.

#### LORETTA

(PACKING FRANTICALLY) I know, Jody. I know! Why do you think I am packing the Xmas Trees so frantic? To forget. Jody! To forget about the pain for just one teensy minute. (PULLS OUT A SMASHED XMAS TREE) Oh dear it looks like I packed this one too hard!

JODY

But what are we going to do? We both need Charlie!

#### LORETTA

I hear you Jody, but what can you do when a man you thought you really knew -- Calls you and says he's never coming home again?

I do have a thing called pride, Jody.

(CRYS INTO XMAS TREE) Oh Charlie! Charlie come home! (CRUSHES TREE ACCIDENTALLY. SHE STOPS CRYING AND LOOKS AT IT) It sure is hard to cry and pack at the same time!

JODY

I got it! We'll take the winnings I have left from the Big Race and go find him!

LORETTA

(COMING ALIVE) What?!

JODY

My pa always said when you want someone -'don't write them, don't call them -- go get
em!"

## LORETTA

Oh Jody whhheeeee-eee! That's real clear thinkin'! Just like Charlie would do when he was in predicaments! Oh Jody! (THEY JUMP UP AND DOWN LIKE TWO KIDS AND HUG AND KISS)

JODY

New Jersey here we come --- Whaaoooooooo Weeeeeee!

(THEY COME DOWN FROM JUMPING AND HUGGING

AND FIND THEMSELVES IN A VERY TIGHT EMBRACE.

MOOD CHANGES SUDDENLY FROM TWO KIDS TO TWO

VERY HOT SEX SYMBOLS. A LONG HOT LOOK THEN)

JODY

Loretta, kiss me like you love me.

LORETTA

Well, of course I love you! Like a little brother. (ALMOST HYPNOTIZED, SHE BEGINS TO DO AS HE SAYS) But I am so (BREAKS POSITION) --- Worried! About Charlie!

JODY

I don't feel like a little brother.

(EMBARRASSED) But I'll -- go get the car ready for tomorrow.

LORETTA

-- and I'll go and pack.

JODY

(ONE MORE STRATEGY) Look, Loretta, (LOOKS

AT CLOCK) it's too late to do anything now --so how's about we leave first thing in the
morning? We could sleep here and start
out real bright and early?

LORETTA

No, Jody -- we'd better leave tonight!

You know tomorrow might be too late.

JODY

But I need some -- sleep.

LORETTA

We can do it in the car.

JODY

(EXCITED) You mean that? Hey, that's a great idea! I always like it better in a car.

# LORETTA

(CORRECTING WITHOUT KNOWING IT) Like when we was kids comin' home from Xmas dinner at Granmaw's, all tucked up in the back seat with Nipper, who was this mutt 'till he got run over by a beer truck. I'll drive and you'll sleep -- then you'll drive and I'll sleep.

A LOOK OF DISAPPOINTMENT WASHES

JODY'S FACE AS WE

CUT TO:

SCENE II TIPPYTOE'S TRAILER: AFTERNOON

TIPPYTOES DOING BREAST EXERCISES ISOMETRIC FIRMING ONES.

#### ANNIE

one-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-none-ten.

(SXF: <u>DOOR KNOCKS</u>) Doors open! Fourteen-fifteen-sixteen-seventeen-eighteen.

DET. JOHNSON

(ENTERS) Hello, ma'am -- I'm Detective Johnson of the Fernwood Police, do you mind if I pay a little visit?

#### ANNIE

Be with you after thirty, twenty-one, twentytwo, twenty-three -

DET. JOHNSON

Mind if I have a look around?

You can see the whole thing from one spot. twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine thirty! Whew! (FEELS BREASTS) Not bad for a grandmother. (DET. JOHNSON STARES AT HER BREASTS. BEAT) Why are you so interested in my R.V.?

DET. JOHNSON

Oh, thought maybe I'd be buying one someday. Nice exercises.

ANNIE

Saves you the cost of an overhaul.

**JOHNSON** 

Look, ma'am, I know you're a close friend to Martha Shumway who I respect greatly but it's my duty to inform you you're violating city ordinance 6432 by sleeping in a vehicle permanently parked in a residential driveway within three blocks of a public school.

ANNIE

What? Are you kidding? How old is that law?

JOHNSON

-- (SHEEPISHLY) 1916.

ANNIE

And, you came here to cite me? I don't understand.

JOHNSON

Well actually, I just came to discuss the violation. And some other things.

(PLEASANTLY) What other things?

JOHNSON

Well, first off, how long do you plan on staying in Fernwood, Mrs. Wylie?

ANNIE

Depends. Why?

JOHNSON

On what? On business?

ANNIE

On business? I don't have any business.

**JOHNSON** 

Then can I ask how you support yourself?

Mrs.... -- or should I call you Tippytoes?

ANNIE

Whichever. And just for the record, this sounds like an interrogation.

JOHNSON

A talk. How do you support yourself?

ANNIE

I don't suppose I have to answer but,
I've saved from my previous life.

JOHNSON

(GETTING TOUCH) A life you left when you purchased this R.V.

ANNIE

Hunh?

JOHNSON

Or "The Life", as it's known.

I'm a widow, Detective Johnson! My husband
left me his insurance. And I sold our house -JOHNSON

No roots, a life that floats from town to town or man to man -- FOR A PRICE! Is that what you're saying?

#### ANNIE

Detective Johnson -- are you insinuating
I'm a --- HOW DARE YOU! Is every woman
in this country who sleeps with a man out
of wedlock still considered a WHORE?!

#### JOHNSON

It's my job, ma'am.

#### ANNIE

To check out mobile homes for hookers?

JOHNSON

There's a prostitution ring working out of Fernwood and I'm going to crack it.

#### ANNIE

Sure you are -- you'll spend all your
time -- that we pay for -- busting a
victimless crime -- while murderers and
thieves and big business swindlers who
rob us and kill us, all run free!
Oh Detective Johnson, you could be making
so much better use of your time. Don't lock
up those that love, stop those that don't!

#### JOHNSON

(TRYING TO LEAVE AS GRACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE)

I meant no offense, Mrs. Tippy-Annie.

It was just a routine call. Good day,

ma'am. (AND HE EXITS.)

# BIG HONEY'S VOICE

Breaker one-ten. This is Big Honey in need of help. My twenty is The Blue Grotto Bar and the action is buzzing! Need more girls to help with the suckers. Come on down the weather's fine.

ANNIE SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

FADE OUT

# ACT THREE

# MARY'S KITCHEN: AFTERNOON

MARY GOING THROUGH HER FAMOUS COLLECTION OF CANNED FOODS. SHE THROWS OUT PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN RECALLED FOR SAFETY REASONS. SHE HAS A LIST FROM FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THAT SHE CHECKS WITH.

#### MARY

(READING CAN) Water, sugar, sodium

pangamate (CHECKS LIST) Ahhhhhh! Sodium

pengamate -- an unsafe food additive!

(THROWS CAN INTO PILE) Out! Out damn spot.

(SFX: DOOR: KNOCKS) (MARY IGNORES IT OR

DOESN'T HEAR IT) I wonder if this Soy

Flour is good? Of course Soy Flour is

always good (CHECKS LIST) But just in case

--- (IN SHOCK FROM WHAT SHE READS ON FDA LIST)

Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!!

#### WANDA

(wanders in to see Mary screaming) Mary, the door was unlocked so I -- are you alright -- are you having a relapse? Mary!

I don't believe it! Even the Soy Flour!

I mean when you can't even trust your own

Soy Flour! This is the Food and Drug

Administration Enforcement Report -
published weekly -- I just subscribed to

it -- look Wanda! Soy Flour in Five LB.

bags manufactured by Monroe, Inc. Toledo

Ohio, recalled due to Salmonella contamination!

(THROWS BAG IN PILE) My cupboards were being tinted by Salmonella contamination!

#### WANDA

They just say that to drive the certified milk dealers out of business. (SHE TAKES A MERRI-MINT FROM A 25 CENT CASE OF MERRI-MINT BREATH FRESHNERS FROM HER POCKET)

(SHE OFFERS ONE TO MARY WHO REFUSES)

#### MARY

That's not the point. It's not the Salmonella that's important. It's the contamination. Everyone knows what contamination means! --- and Salmonella on top of it! It definitely sounds like it's in the family of Cholera or swine flu.

#### WANDA

Well, I'm not getting a shot for it! And I don't think you should either, regardless of your party affiliation.

America has got to get back into fresh raw foods! (STOPS) Did I say Hello? (WANDA NODS NO) HELLO Wanda.

WANDA

Hello Mary.

MARY

Help yourself to some coffee on the stove.

How are you?

WANDA

(HELPING HERSELF TO COFFEE) Just fine

Mary. I just found the most perfect new

modern apartment on Bellview Avenue. I

signed the lease this morning! It's a lovely

one bedroom with two baths.

MARY

(CONTINUING TO CHECK LABELS AND THROW IN PILE) One bedroom and two baths. It's that modern?

WANDA

Very. One bedroom insures when overnight guests stay over, they don't get the wrong ideas of staying in the other bedroom. -- but they still benefit from their own bathroom!

MARY

(UNDERSTANDING) Oh you mean like keeping a double bed rather than buying a King size.

WANDA

Exactly, the closer the better!

Do you think that's why rich people who live in castles never seem as happy as poor people in bungalows?

#### WANDA

That's just a myth, Mary, sweetheart. Poor people are only happy when they get tickets for "The Price Is Right".

#### MARY

No, because I remember this movie where this very rich newspaper man married this very poor opera singer and built her a gigantic castle in California. — They were having dinner at this enormous table — and they hardly spoke — because he was at one end and she the other end — which was at least a hundred feet away so it was a little difficult to talk naturally but —

# WANDA

Are you talking about 'Flamingo Road' with Joan Crawford?

# MARY

No, it wasn't a musical - (STOPS LOOKS AT WANDA SERIOUSLY) Wanda, We've got to talk!

# WANDA

That's what I thought we were doing.

#### MARY

No not about movies, I mean serious talk!
Why are you moving into a one bedroom?
With two bathrooms and probably a sauna?

MARY

On the roof. It's so Merle will move in with me.

As I suspected! Wanda it's my duty as your almost best friend to warn you about Merle Jeeters who is almost as attractive as Lorne Green. But he is not to be trusted!

WANDA

(INTERESTED FOR SPICY NEWS) He's not? How can you say that? Tell me.

#### MARY

Well he comes on to every woman he meets!

(GOES TO DOOR AND HOLDS IT TIGHTLY

CLOSED) I am holding this door just in case Tom should run in unexpectedly and hear what I'm about to say. Because Wanda -- he even came on me! Came on to me.

#### WANDA

Mary, please relax. I know all about Merle's little fatal weakness. That's exactly the reason I want him to move in and share the sauna. So I can have him all to myself and feed him and care for him and let him know a house can be a home and then he won't want to go and spend nights in trailers with a woman who's 51 but firm.

Aha, 51. But do you know what kind of a woman Tippytoes is? If you did, I don't think you'd worry. (WANDA LOOKS AT MARY.

BEAT) Because Tippytoes and believe me, I am not spreading gossip - is bi-sexual! I said it. She is bisexual. (SHE GOES BACK TO SORTING CANS)

WANDA

(VERY SURPRISED) You're kidding? Isn't that exciting!

MARY

I mean, who could ever believe Fernwood would see the day it would have a bi-- did you say exciting?

WANDA

I'm surprised, but definitely not shocked.
(TAKES ANOTHER MERRY MINT)

MARY

Let me see those mints. Elsie's Merri-Mints.

(FINDS THEM ON LIST) Just as I suspected;

These should be recalled. They have red dye #2.

WANDA

But they were so tasty!

MARY

I don't think you understand. (RIGHT BACK TO THE SUBJECT) Tippytoes likes women in the biblical sense, which is hard to believe since she was married and has two grown children!

That has nothing to do with anything, Mary. Some of the greatest bisexuals in the world were married.

#### MARY

You mean, they're rating them? In terms of greatness? This is very confusing. I mean, she's so feminine and American, like Doris Day. Of course Ed and Howard weren't obvious either --- I mean --- I read about Elton John.

#### WANDA

Mary at some point in life everybody falls in love with a member of the same sex, don't they? It happened to me.

#### MARY

Wanda! Not to you!

#### WANDA

At summer camp. I fell madly in love with my counselor. Jo-Jo Spinelli. She was everything I wanted to be. The flip hairdoo, the sweat shirts, the gold ankle bracelet. We kissed a few times but it was harmless -- puppy love. Surely it's happened to you.

#### MARY

Never! Wanda. I swear on this FDA report, that is an area I have no experience in! -- and I don't know if I can face Tippytoes suspecting what I now heavily suspect!

Oh Mary! It's not that unusual! Having sex with members of your own sex is very --- sophisticated! It was very big in the thirties.

MARY

Have you Wanda -- as an adult.

WANDA

Well -- not exactly -- but I did look

up Jo-Jo Spinelli when I was in New

York several years ago --- She was

working as a cab driver -- a lovely woman.

--- I mean I am sophisticated --- to a point.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

MARY

Excuse me, this is probably another disaster. Hello Mary Hartman. (BEAT) Mary Hartman here. Could you talk up please. Long distance? Rome?! IT'S GORE! Gore!? Gore! How are you? What! You finished the introduction to my book! -- and you'll be sending it to me -- Wonderful! What? -- oh the journal. Oh it's coming along just fine! I was just writing in it as you called. Yes, it's almost finished. Oh Gore that would be lovely! I'll send it as soon as I'm finished -- very soon -- very, very soon. Bye Gore. (HANGS UP) Oh god, Wanda. I was bluffing. My journal is nowhere near finished. (BEAT) What's there to write about? Nothing ever happens in Fernwood.

Then why not make something happen?

MARY

What do you mean?

WANDA

Take something as simple as your suspicions about Tippytoes -- explore them -- see where they lead.

MARY

What if they lead somewhere I don't want to go?

WANDA

Don't decide til you get there.

MARY

Wanda! You're suggesting I let Tippytoes make love to me just to write about it to sell a novel!

WANDA

Some of the best novels were written that way. You have to live what you write about!

Hemingway lived! Scott Fitgerald lived!

Jacquelin Susann lived!

MARY

(beat) Do you really think it'll help sales?

WANDA

True life is the greatest seller.

MARY

But I don't know how to <u>act</u> with someone who's a bi-sexual. (THROWS OUT ANOTHER CAN)

Just try to act natural and where-ever the conversation and hands take you, remember it can serve as important material for your book.

## MARY

You're right (CLOSE UP TO MARY AND WANDA'S FACES) Do you think Gore would appreciate how seriously I'm taking my writing career?

# WANDA

I'm sure he would.

(THE CAMERA NOW SWINGS DOWN TO THE PILE

OF THROWN-OUT LABELED CANS AS WE HEAR MARY'S

VOICE OVER THE CLOSE-UP OF THE PILE OF CANS

WHOSE LABELS DECEIVED THEM)

#### MARY

It really makes you wonder how little we ever get past labels. Or warnings.

FADE OUT

End of Episode #177